

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Tuesday, January 8. 1712.

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**I** Am now told by some, who call themselves my Friends; that to Argue as I do, for a Treaty with France, is to be a *Jacobite*; this is a Surprizing Consequence to me: I have look'd as narrowly into my own Thoughts, as the worst Enemy I have can do; and I thank God I find in myself no Propensity, no Inclination that Way; if my Friends fear it, or my Enemies hope it, they will be equally deceived; I know no Man can answer for himself; but this Justice I'll do the Devil, That he never tempted me to it yet; *Sathan*, as all Divines agree, studies to tempt Men to that Evil; which he finds their Inclinati-

ons lean to, that he may have a Traytor within to favour his Attacks without; I have then this Testimony in myself, that the Suble Tempter knows, this is not the Sin of my Inclination, and therefore never went about me on that Side.

But after all, I am at a Loss to see how Arguing for a Treaty, can be Arguing for *Jacobitism*; much less to denominate a Man a *Jacobite*. — But I see the Argument my wise Antagonists draw; mark the Climax, To Treat, is with a Design to make Peace with France; to make Peace with France, is with a Design to give up the Confederates to him in a Dishonourable manner;

manner; this is to strengthen *France*, and to strengthen *France*, is to restore the Pretender, and to do that; is to be a *Jacobite*.

I readily grant the first, and openly deny the second; and upon this, turns the whole, for I also grant all the rest; I allow, that to give up the Confederates in a Dishonourable manner, is to strengthen the *French*, and that to strengthen the *French*, is in effect to restore the Pretender, and any one knows to do that, is to be a *Jacobite*.

But pray how do these appear? How does it appear, that to Treat of a Peace, is to conclude a Dishonourable Peace? Let any one prove that this is true, and I'll cry out as loud as any body against all Proposals for a Treaty, as Treasonable, and as Defructive to the Honour and Safety of *Britain* and of all the Confederates. This is such Logick as never was yet put upon any body; wherefore when I am Arguing for a Treaty, I desire to explain what I mean by it, and what I do not mean, and what I believe every honest Man that is for a Treaty, means as well as I.

By a Treaty, as I said before, I mean no more than this, That whereas the King of *France* being reduc'd to the Necessity of it, professes a sincere Resolution to make Peace, and desires that her Majesty would invite the rest of her high Allies, to give a Meeting to his Plenipotentiaries, assuring her Majesty, that he will enter into a Treaty upon Securities, and give to all the Allies Reasonable Satisfaction, in order to put an End to the War.

And whereas it is her Majesty's Opinion, That the Allies should meet, and hear what the *French* Plenipotentiaries will offer, towards such Reasonable Satisfaction.

That therefore the said Confederates may meet, and Treat of these Things; That if the Enemy may be brought to Consent to such Conditions as may be a Reasonable Satisfaction to the Allies, and that all the Confederates may be Satisfied and Secur'd, a Safe, Lasting, Honourable, Peace may be obtain'd, which all honest Men, will, no doubt, be glad of — But that no

Interruption being hereby given, either to the Preparation for, or Pursuit of the War, with the utmost Vigour, the Confederates may, if such a Peace, such a Good, Safe, Lasting and Honourable PEACE, as above, cannot be obtain'd, be still more and more closely United, in order to oblige the Enemy to submit to their Reasonable Demands.

This is what I mean by a TREATY; This, and nothing but This; if this be to be a *Jacobite*, or a *Turn-Coat*, I am even any Thing that this will justify you to call me; I see all the Men of calm and sedate Sense, all the Men of serious Hopes, and of true Revolution Principles, are of this Mind; I cannot find upon the strictest Search, one Word said against this, by any body; The Memorial of his Electoral Highness of *Hanover*, speaks not a Word absolutely against it, only, that he had rather it had been by Way of Preliminary, so as nothing should remain at a General Assembly, but to give them the Form of a Treaty — It seems to me to be all one in Argument which Way this is done; his Highness is for this Way, her Majesty is for the other; for our parts who are without Doors, we think either may do, if the Allies are Unanimous; and shall we fly in her Majesty's Face about the Form, while the Substance is the same? I cannot see the Reason of it at all, I confess.

But, say the other Gentlemen, They are for giving the Spanish Monarchy to the House of Bourbonne — This is the plain Design, this is the Thing a Treaty is desir'd for, and the Proposals of France signify as much — And this is the Ruin we fear.

I must own I cannot fear it, because I cannot see it possible that this can be done, especially at a Treaty; by a Secret Negotiation such Things may be indeed, but at a General Treaty it is impossible — Would this be to give all the Allies Reasonable Satisfaction? Would this be to make Europe Safe? — I cannot see any probability, even in the Suggestion; but on the contrary, I look upon a Treaty to be the only Way to prevent it.



But they will give *Old Spain* and the *Indies* to *Philip V.* and this you are for, say they; but we think it is betraying the Allies to do so.

For this Reason I am still for a *Treaty*, for then, if *Spain* and the *Indies* are given to *Philip V.* it is no matter what I am for or against, the Allies themselves, must give them to him, or it cannot be done—What the Allies agree to, is nothing to me, and without them, I am for giving nothing to any body; however, as some People are desirous I should answer directly this Question, whether to bear myself, or satisfy them, I know not; I shall not be backward to speak my Mind freely, as I have done before; viz. That I am by no means for giving *Spain* and the *Indies* to *Philip V.* nor did I ever speak one Word to signify that I was so; all I have said is upon another Foot, I am for A PARTITION, and sharing this mighty Prize into such Hands, as that no Party should be made so strong by it, as to overpower the rest of *Europe*; and that some of the Confederates should be made so strong, as not to fear future Mischiefs.

I have express'd my self in the particulars, with the same Freedom; we are talking very often about Securities, and mighty stress is laid upon the Word; I think the best Security in the World is Payment—We are the best Security to ourselves that can be; take Power from the Enemy, and put Power into our Hands, and if we cannot secure ourselves, it is our own Faults; I explain myself thus:

1. Take Power from the Enemy; Let him disgorge his Conquests, quit the Hold he has got of his Neighbour's Throats, give up the *Dutch* their Barrier, give the rest of the *Low-Countries* out of his Hand, give up the *Stipulated Barrier* of the *Rhine* to the Emperor, and state the like on the Frontiers of *Italy*—There you take from him the Power of immediate Hurt.

2. Then put Power into the Hands of the English and Dutch; such Articles of

Trade, such Hold of *America*, such Possessions, such Branches of Commerce, such Caution in *Europe*, as shall, by the Increase of Wealth and Trade, make them effectual Confederators of their own Peace; by the first, becoming strong, for *Wealth is Strength*; and by the second, making *Old Spain* so dependent upon them, that it shall for ever make it the Interest and Safety of *Old Spain*, whoever governs it, to join in an Inseparable Union with *Great Britain* and *Holland* against *France*, or any body else.

When this is done, and some other Dismemberings also to weaken it farther, then let it fall to who it will, I believe we shall not be anxious about it; but to give *Spain* and the *Indies* to the House of *Bourbonne*, Undivided and Undepending upon us, I believe no Man, who has the Interest of *Europe*, much less of *Britain*, in his View, has any thought of it, at least I hope not.

This is, I hope, a clear Explanation of what I have been all along saying.—Let any Man tell me, Why *We alone*, of all the Confederates, should spend so much, and get so little? Why *We alone* should have no Share of the great Prize of the War? The Emperor has great Dominions, whole Kingdoms and Provinces already, and more he may have; the Duke of *Savoy*, the King of *Portugal*, the King of *Prussia*, all have their *Stipulated Portions*, Barriers, and Defences, and no Man gratches them; but nothing to *England*, nothing to recover our exhausted Treasures, and help pay off an immense Debt; nothing to make us capable of Renewing a War, if there should be any future Occasion; nothing to enable us to be as much Terror to Tyrants as we were before; I cannot think any Peace can be safe and Honourable, either for Us or the *Dutch*, unless we are by such Additions, to Possessions, and in Commerce made strong enough to hold the Reins of *Europe*, and give Law to the future Encroachments of *Papish Tyrants*, as well *French* as *Austrian*, or any other; this is what I Argue for; see those



those that oppose it, and Reproach the Author for it, consider what they have been doing, and how an opportunity was once put into their Hands, to make those two Maritime Powers effectual Masters of the

rest of the World, and they assisted to cast from them an Advantage, which, if it be lost, Heaven will never trust them with again, and they shall one Day sink for the want of it.

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